

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th February 2015 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

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| <u>PRESENT:</u> | Councillor R Wilson | <u>Town Mayor</u> |
| | Councillor C W Cross | |
| | Councillor Mrs K M Draper | |
| | Councillor I F Jelley | |
| | Councillor M E Jones | |
| | Councillor A J Mills | |
| | Councillor K D Sumpter | |
| | Councillor Mrs M E Talbot | |
| | County Councillor J Hakewill | |

596 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said prayers and mentioned the work of the Town Council and the Medical Centre and our hope for more permanent staff there.

597 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown and Matthew.

598 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

There were 26 reported crimes during January as follows:-

- Burglary other - 1
- Criminal damage - 4
- Robbery - 1
- Sexual offences - 2
- Theft from motor vehicles - 3
- Theft/handling - 4
- Theft of motor vehicles - 1
- Violence offences - 10.

PCSO Jason Parish was present at the Meeting and said it was a good start that there were no burglary dwelling offences during January. As to the sexual offences, the man mentioned at the last Meeting had been arrested again today but these are not serious offences. We had also received a reply from Sgt McDonald on this matter.

There were 10 violence offences but there is a campaign to deal with these in the town. The Members of the Town Council were very pleased about the reduction in crime over the last few months, in particular that there were no burglary dwelling incidents over the last month.

A letter had been received from a resident expressing concern about vehicles parked in Littlewood Street at or near the junction with Rushton Road which means that when making a left-hand turn from Rushton Road he had been confronted with cars on the wrong side of the road. PCSO Parish will have this looked at.

Community Policing

Chief Inspector Dennis Murray attended the Meeting to discuss the changes in policing and firstly explained that he had 23 years service with Northamptonshire Police with experience in various roles including on the street policing. He is also the Violence Lead Officer in this part of the County and also on the Futures Programme. The Police & Crime Commissioner asked the Police to look at different ways of policing to save £30m which has to be done. CI Murray therefore leads the trial to look at how to do this. Kettering has eight extra PCs, but some PCSOs were sent to Oundle. They have also gone out to meet the local farmers to find out their problems and have sent volunteers out on horseback with fluorescent jackets and this has cut the number of accidents on the roads. They had 60 volunteers in six weeks and these have been successful in various ways. The Fire Service has produced six more vehicles to assist in this pilot scheme. Currently they are in a programme to find out from residents what they want.

Councillor Mills said the number of PCs and PCSOs which we used to have at Desborough has been reduced and we now have PC Gareth Broxton but we have not seen him in Rothwell. CI Murray pointed out that this area never had a pro-active Crime Team, but there is now one here. Councillor Mills said for some years we had PC Ian Cotterell and PC Jim O'Hara and several PCSOs who were here for a long while so they had got to know people in this community and this local knowledge helped a lot. CI Murray said they have a 40% decrease in violence, but because they changed how the figures were calculated so that very minor incidents now have to be recorded as violence this is shown as an increase of 51%. Councillor Mills said the Police & Crime Commissioner told us the Police numbers on the front line had not been cut but they have been reduced here and the Police & Crime Commissioner can only offer volunteers to try and make up the number. CI Murray confirmed the numbers had been cut but they have moved some to other areas. If there is a need here, Officers will be sent to Rothwell. The Town Council is also concerned about the Volunteer Scheme, and Councillor Sumpter mentioned the serious crimes we have had in this small town with several robberies at the Building Society, the Bookmakers and the shops. CI Murray said this is one of the reasons he wants to get this Rural Crime Team up and running.

There is £100,000 investment for domestic violence. Corby has the highest rate at present and they are looking at the scheme tried out in Glasgow to cut down violence and they are working with various other consultants and businesses to reduce violence generally. There is also predictive policing when they will put extra Officers in and they are working on evidence-based practice in various ways. Councillor Cross said he is now being told that it would be nice to see a Policeman in the town. We do have PCs Gareth Broxton and Simon Johnson at Desborough and Officers still have their own areas, but if it is thought there will be a problem in a particular area, they will send Officers there. Councillor Mills thought a lot of residents would be prepared to pay extra on their Council Tax for more Police Officers but Chief Inspector Murray said this would not bring in many more Officers. For Rowell Fair they could put the high visibility volunteers in and this presence will deter people.

The Police front office is now at the Borough Council offices and this is very helpful. They have set up Business Watch in Oundle which has succeeded and they are looking to extend this. They have £139,000 to set up community hubs and also £63,000 to spend on projects for one year. As to the person with mental health issues in the town, PCSO Parish thought this man now had carers and social workers to assist. Chief Inspector Murray explained the difficulties the Police have in dealing with people with mental health problems.

Councillor Mrs Talbot said Desborough Town Council purchased some bicycles for the Police some time ago and Chief Inspector Murray said he had just paid to have these refurbished and

the Police cars have cycle carriers. He can also buy another ten when the Officers have received their training. They can now get Specials on the street in three months rather than six months and some of the Specials are going round on their horses. As to the JAG Meetings Chief Inspector Murray thought these would continue.

Councillor Sumpter said we have the disabled toilet in Squires Hill which is no longer usable but if the Police wanted to store bicycles in there they could do this. Chief Inspector Murray said that he could arrange for an Officer to bring his paperwork out to a suitable location in Rothwell and other places where they could put computer links into the Police front office. As to the CCTV cameras these are very useful and Chief Inspector Murray would like these to be based in the Police control room, but there is no space at the present time

Councillor Mills thanked Chief Inspector Murray for attending the Meeting and explaining the current actions which are being taken.

599 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Northern Relief Road: County Councillor Hakewill said this needs to be in our Neighbourhood Plan and if we write to him about this he will also pursue it. Councillor Mills has spoken to the Planning Officers dealing with Rothwell North and they said it was Richard Hall at the County Council who can confirm whether this road is wide enough to extend and we do not want a ransom strip. The Borough said the road from the old A6 to the A6 bypass will sort out the problem. However, this will not do this on its own and it is Richard Hall who needs to sort this out. It has always been planned that there would be a wide enough estate road through the Rothwell North development from the bypass to the old A6 and a little further east so this can be extended in the future to provide the relief road. It was AGREED to write to Councillor Hakewill as there are 700 houses to be built at Rothwell North and with the other proposals there will be an additional 1,000 houses here in the near future.

(2) County Traveller Unit: Councillor Hakewill has spoken to them about the travellers on the old Lamport Road and in the Harrington Road area generally. The Borough Councillors will also speak to the Borough about this issue.

(3) Fire Service: the procedures will have to be changed but he and Councillor Matthews from Desborough are keeping an eye on what is to happen in our area.

(4) Sure Start: Councillor Hakewill had a Meeting in Kettering and he is also to meet the Manager of Action for Children about this issue.

(5) New County Council building: this will save money for the County in the long run.

(6) Infant and Junior Schools: this has been held up but he and Councillor Jelley are pursuing this.

(7) Automobile Number Plate Recognition: Councillor Hakewill is asking for this system to be installed in Rothwell.

(8) Ward Initiative Money: there was a proposal to reduce this but they have managed to keep the amount the same. A resident at the Meeting thanked Councillor Hakewill for the donation to the Church Sunbeams which was appreciated.

600 MINUTES

Councillor Mills referred to the item at the end of the Meeting, and confirmed that the £500 for the horses for the parade to the Civic Service was agreed to be paid from the Town Council's funds and not from the Town Mayor's allowance.

Subject to this amendment, it was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th January 2015 be confirmed and signed.

601 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the report of the Partnership Meeting held on 21st January 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Jones was omitted from the list of people attending this Meeting and subject to this amendment it was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

It was felt that Mr Burrows was very interesting, although it seems that Rothwell is not included in the Kettering Assisted Area Status. It was felt that the Partnership should ask for Rothwell to be included in this Area as we have identified two properties which might apply.

County Plan/Street Lights/Planning

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 19th January 2015 regarding these matters had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted. We have asked to have a Site Meeting to discuss the issue of the replacement street lighting, especially as to where the columns will be put so that they do not interfere with Rowell Fair.

Hawkins Close Parking Area

This area was flooded and this was reported to the Borough Council. Michael Chester had inspected and believed this was down to Anglian Water's network and he passed this to them. As it was icy, he would try and spread some grit on the area which was pooling.

Medical Centre

Copies of a letter from a resident had been circulated, as this explained the difficulty she had had trying to order a prescription by phoning the 0844 number when she had to spend 35 minutes on the telephone. She was told she had to attend the Surgery to sign a form and then had to stand in the queue for another 20 minutes. The Town Council has subsequently found out that the surgery does now have a local number of 01536 211277 but there is still only one line so there is a long wait for this to be answered. Apparently the machine to book people in is not working.

Councillor Jones has applied to join the Patient Participation Group, but he was not able to do this although he is on the virtual group who are invited to comment and receive information by e-mail. Councillor Jelley is still trying to get in touch with the Area Manager of NHS England. Councillor Mills hoped he might be able to get someone to come to a Meeting of the Town Council to discuss the Medical Centre.

Columbus Crescent Play Area

It was reported that there is a lot of dog mess in this area, and Councillor Jelley and other residents are trying to get the Dog Warden to come out.

Play Equipment

Two mothers of disabled children have asked for swings which are suitable for the disabled as there are none in Rothwell.

There is to be the new play area on the Charter Park Estate and we wanted to try and get some play equipment for disabled children there.

Primary Schools

Councillor Jelley had a Meeting with the Sure Start people and they want that centre to be opened up for community use but he has objected to this. Perhaps the Infant School could take this over from the County. He understood that Action for Children would reduce local services and possibly work in other premises. Laurie Long, the Project Manager for Action for Children, had originally told both Councillor Jelley and the Clerk that the service would remain at School Lane and only the universal sessions sent to the Library.

It has taken a long time to have the roof repaired. There will be a turning compound left open at the Junior School car park to be used out of hours but obviously the school staff will need to use this during school times.

BID Scheme

Councillor Jelley has received an E-mail from Guy Holloway that there is still money left and he thought this was just over £2,000 which can be used on consultancy services but could be used for Partnership development and Councillor Jelley will discuss this with him. Mark Cox has offered to up-grade or create a new website and there will be costs for this even though he has said he can carry out most of the work free of charge.

Rothwell In Bloom

We had asked Stephen Chester to quote for enhancing the Library garden and also providing troughs and flowers in front of the town signs but we have not heard back from him. Councillor Sumpter took Paul Tibbles round the town to look at what could be done, and he has provided the following quotes:-

- (1) Library Garden: to supply and plant this raised bed according to his drawing - £1,600.
- (2) Grass Verges: to cut and collect all grass areas including edging back to the kerbs - £900.
- (3) Allotment Hedges: Cut back all problem hazel suckers to 1m. away from the rail on the allotment side - £1,000.
- (4) Town Signs: Repair the Welcome to Rothwell sign and clean - £100.

It was felt that some of this work is the responsibility of the County Council and we would not want to pay for this. Although the Library garden is also owned by the County, this is in the town centre and needs to look better than the County can arrange to have done. We do already have permission from the County to deal with this area and the Town Mayor and Mrs Wilson have kept this weeded and tidy.

Councillor Jelley still has some membrane which was given to us by the Borough Council and this could be put down. Councillor Sumpter said Mr Tibbles said he would dig down to 1' and remove this but the Town Mayor said the depth of soil is only about 6". Councillor Cross agreed we should not carry out work which either the County or the Borough should do, but we have a reasonable balance in the Rothwell In Bloom Account and we should use this for the benefit of the town and he would agree we should have this work done on the Library garden. We will mention this to the Partnership Committee because the Town Council handed over responsibility for Rothwell In Bloom to them. The Town Mayor said he and his wife would maintain it once the heavy work is done.

It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Jones and RESOLVED to accept Mr Tibbles' quote of £1,600 for this work. The Clerk was asked to confirm this to Mr Tibbles and mention that we have some membrane and that the soil is only about 6" deep.

Ladies' Cycling Tour

Councillor Jones said he is still trying to get this cycling tour to come through Rothwell and he thought this would be on 19th June. They are starting in Oundle and went through Desborough last year, but he has suggested it would be better to come through Rothwell including up Greening Road past Montsaye Academy where there are 1,200 pupils who could cheer them on. They could then still go to Desborough.

Litter Pick

The Town Mayor said he proposed to carry out the annual litter pick on 11th April 2015 meeting at 2.00 pm outside the Market House.

602 PLANNING

Planning Committee Meetings

A Meeting of the Planning Committee was held on 19th January 2015, after that on the draft County Plan and the Street Lights upgrade to consider the following Application, and the Town Council's observations were agreed as stated:-

KET/2014/0841 10 Sharman Close - Rear extension.
No objection.

A Meeting of the Planning Committee was held on 5th February 2015 as follows:-

General

A letter had been received from the Borough Council that Application KET/2014/0068 for 21 dwellings and public open space on land off Harrington Road would go to the Borough Planning Committee for a decision on Tuesday, 10th February. It was discussed whether someone should attend to enquire about the s.106 benefits, although this is also the date of the next full Town Council Meeting. The Borough Council had confirmed that Application KET/2014/0379 for three dwellings on land at the rear of 30-34 Scott Avenue has gone to Appeal.

Refusal

The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2014/0401 Woodfield Farm, Glendon Road - Wind Turbine.

Approvals

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2014/0645 Land adjoining 2 Whiteman Lane - Change of use from highway to residential use.

KET/2014/0796 83 Greening Road - Extension.

Applications

The following Applications were considered and the Town Council's observations agreed as stated:-

- KET/2014/0781 Rock Hill/Rushton Road - Extension.
No objection provided the amenities enjoyed by the adjoining properties are not adversely affected and there is still sufficient off-road parking.
- KET/2015/0031 The Salvation Army, 9 Bridge Street - Change of Use from shop and café to shop, café and place of worship.
Rothwell Town Council supports this application as this will be a much better site for the Salvation Army place of worship than their current premises in New Street.
- KET/2015/0029 16 Greening Road - Demolition of bungalow and erection of two detached dwellings.
No objection to this proposal, but there should be a condition that no construction vehicles are parked in Greening Road as this is a busy school route and the bus route to Rothwell Medical Centre.

603 HIGHWAYS

A14 Resurfacing

Details of the resurfacing work on the A14 had been received from A-one+ and the Borough Council. In addition, the County had sent information that Broughton Road, Pytchley will be closed for work on 23rd February and 23rd March.

School Crossing Patrol

Councillor Jones asked if there were any other proposals for a School Crossing Patrol Operator and it was explained that it would cost £7,500 to train a replacement for Mrs Chester and in fact there is no-one who could train a replacement. Councillor Jones asked if there could be an alternative. The Town Council has had Site Meetings in Rushton Road because this is so dangerous for pedestrians to cross and now there is no patrol, it was felt something needs to be done. Councillor Mills felt the s.106 money coming from Rothwell North is to be used for white lines in the High Street to change the road priorities and there might be some money which could also help with highway changes to slow traffic down in Rushton Road.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Jones, **SECONDED** by Councillor Jones and **RESOLVED** to arrange another Site Meeting to discuss this issue, and we will ask Richard Hall and Ian Boyes from the County Council, as well as County Councillor Hakewill.

604 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Annual Parish Meeting

It has already been decided to hold the Annual Town Council Meeting and the ordinary Town May Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, 19th May because of the election. We also have to hold the Annual Parish Meeting before the end of May, and we will not be able to have this in the Trinity Centre this year because it is being sold. It was **AGREED** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday, 26th May and to ask if this could be in the Arts & Heritage Centre, or if this is not convenient to see if we can go to the Well and the Bridge, because both these premises have access for the disabled.

Attendance at Meetings

It was asked how long can a Member of the Town Council can go without attending a Meeting before they can be asked to resign. Councillors have to attend at least twice a year, and there

cannot be a gap of longer than six months. There used to be a system whereby at the end of the year there was a statement of how many Meetings Members had attended and it was AGREED this should be put back and Members will prepare this.

605 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter and RESOLVED that the statement be approved and adopted and the following amounts paid:-

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>Goods or Services</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mrs C E Mackay | Clerk's Salary | £583.60 |
| Inter County Cleaning Services | Cleaning Market House | £36.00 |
| Newmans | Awards and Town Ball balloons etc. | £216.32 |
| R S Print | Printing Town Plan questionnaires | £495.60 |
| BT Payment Services | Phone and Broadband | £156.08 |
| Ray Beard | Six brackets (Rothwell In Bloom) | £240.00 |

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date